

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 211727
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 211727

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 6598 ACTION SECSTATE DATED SEP 02:

QTE:S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6598

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LEWIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IS, US

SUBJECT: FMS SUPPORT OF KFIR PROGRAM AND NEW AIRCRAFT
DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 206545

1. I MET WITH WEIZMAN ON SEPTEMBER 2 AND CONVEYED
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HIS PROPOSAL TO USE FMS
CREDITS IN SUPPORT OF KFIR PRODUCTION IN A MANNER

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SIMILAR TO THAT AUTHORIZED FOR THE CHARIOT TANK.

2. WEIZMAN MADE NO EFFORT TO DISGUISE HIS DISAPPOINT-
MENT. HE STATED HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE THAT WE HAD
PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR TO THE GOI THAT THE FMS CREDIT
SUPPORT OF THE CHARIOT WAS NOT TO BE TAKEN AS A
PRECEDENT. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL HE SAID THAT

ONE RESULT OF OUR DECISION WOULD BE THE NEED FOR THE GOI TO TAKE A NEW HARD LOOK AT HOW MUCH LONGER THE KFIR PRODUCTION LINE SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION HE SAID PRESENT PLANS CALLED FOR TWO MORE YEARS OF PRODUCTION OF 100 PLUS AIRCRAFT (OUR ESTIMATE IS 130 IN THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD). THIS PRODUCTION WAS ESSENTIALLY INTENDED TO REPLACE AGING A4S. IT HAD THE SECOND OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE OF KEEPING THE ISRAELI AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY ALIVE.

3. I THEN TURNED TO HIS "CRAZY IDEA" CONCERNING JOINT ISRAELI-IRANIAN CO-PRODUCTION OF A POST F-16 AIRCRAFT (WITH OR WITHOUT U.S. ASSISTANCE) AND CONVEYED TO HIM IN UNVARNISHED FORM THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. THIS NEWS APPEARED TO DISTRESS WEIZMAN EVEN MORE THAN THE KFIR DECISION. HE SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF OUR NEGATIVE REACTION TO HIS PROPOSAL IT "MIGHT BE NECESSARY" TO REVISE ISRAEL'S PREVIOUS REQUESTS CONCERNING F-16 AND F-15 PROCUREMENT. CHARACTERIZING HIS REMARKS AT THIS POINT AS ONLY PRELIMINARY, HE SAID THAT OUR DECISION WOULD ALSO CHANGE HIS APPROACH IN HIS NOVEMBER DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY BROWN. HE WOULD NOW WANT TO CONCENTRATE MUCH MORE AT LOOKING AT WHAT AN AIR FORCE SHOULD BE TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS HENCE. HE SAID THAT BRIG GENERAL DAVID IVRY, WHO WILL BE NAMED COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE ON SEPTEMBER 27, WILL
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ACCOMPANY DIRECTOR GENERAL ZUSSMAN TO THE U.S. IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND HE WOULD BE CHARGED WITH LAUNCHING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. I TOLD WEIZMAN THAT ANOTHER AREA WHICH HE AND ZUSSMAN SHOULD DIG INTO IN DETAIL DURING THEIR VISIT RELATES TO OUR PHILOSOPHY ON THE CO-PRODUCTION OF ARMS. I STRESSED THAT I THOUGHT IT IMPERATIVE HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAVE NO MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY RELATING TO TRANSFER OF ARMS AND TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS THE VERY REAL DOMESTIC INDUSTRY RESTRAINTS WITH WHICH WE HAD TO COPE.

5. WEIZMAN'S FRUSTRATION OVER THE DELUGE OF BAD NEWS I BROUGHT HIM SHOWED ONLY AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION WHEN HE SAID WITH SOME BITTERNESS THAT IT NOW APPEARS THE IDF WILL HAVE TO LIVE IN THE FUTURE WITH "WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE U.S. IS GOOD FOR US" IN TERMS OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: A SEARCH OF OUR FILES TURNS UP NO WRITTEN RECORD OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO

HOW WE INFORMED THE ISRAELIS THAT THE CHARIOT TANK
DEAL WAS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS A PRECEDENT FOR ANY
FUTURE ISRAELI PROPOSALS OF THIS NATURE. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING FOR OUR RECORDS THE DETAILS
OF WHEN AND HOW THIS WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE GOI. LEWIS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: MASS, IS, US, IR
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